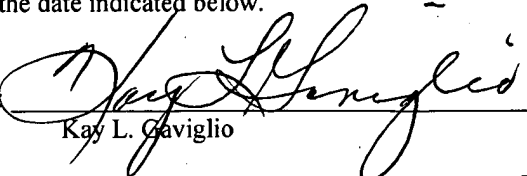




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelop addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Date: December 22, 2003

By


Kay L. Gaviglio

PATENT
Docket No. GC372

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Timothy Fowler et al.,

Serial No.: 08/876,132

Filed: June 23, 1997

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Group Art: 1636

Examiner: Daniel M. Sullivan

For: *IMPROVED ENTEROBACTERIACEAE FERMENTATION STRAINS*

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action (Paper No. 19) mailed September 23, 2003.

The response is filed within the three-month shortened statutory time period for reply and is considered timely. Please consider and enter the present amendment and remarks.